## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



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(43) International Publication Date 28 July 2005 (28.07.2005)

**PCT** 

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/067702 A1

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: 7/04 // 5/013, G01N 21/01, 33/04, 27/26

A01J 5/017,

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/SE2005/000025

(22) International Filing Date: 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 0400046-9

13 January 2004 (13.01.2004) SE

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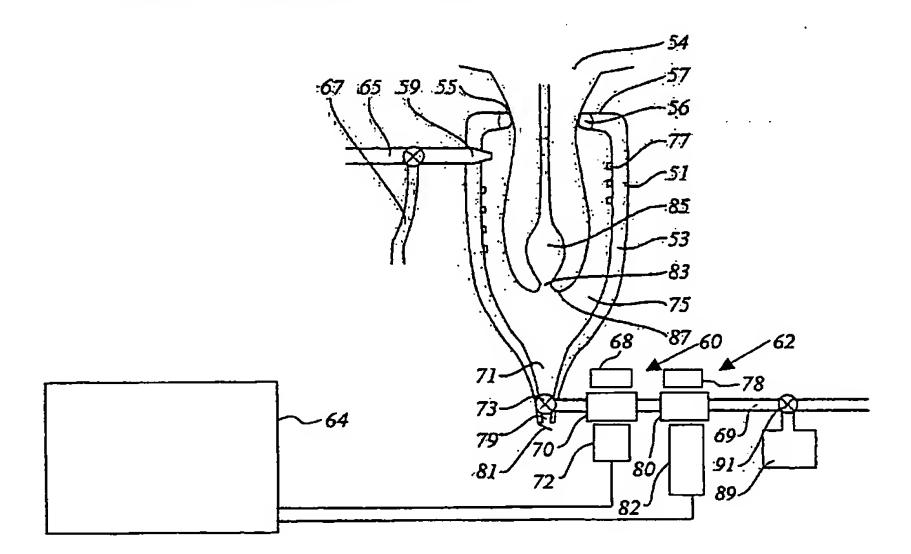
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CLEANING AND PRE-MILKING A TEAT OF A MILKING ANIMAL



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for cleaning and pre-milking a teat of a milking animal prior to the milking animal being milked comprises a teat cleaning and pre-milking device (51) having cleaning means and pre-milking means, wherein, during cleaning and pre-milking, the teat of the animal is exposed to the cleaning and pre-milking means. The apparatus comprises further means (60; 84) for establishing that milk is actually extracted from the teat of the milking animal during the cleaning and pre-milking, means (62; 84) for measuring a quality, preferably a somatic cell count value, of the milk extracted from the teat of the animal during the cleaning and pre-milking, means for comparing the measured quality of the milk with a reference quality value, and means for indicating, depending on the comparison, whether or not milk drawn from the teat of the animal during a subsequent milking should be mixed with milk drawn from another animal.

2005/067702

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